



SUNSTITES-PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT

SERVING RESIDENTS OF THE SUNSTITES-PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT,
AND NEIGHBORING COCHISE COUNTY

Mailing Address: PO Box 507, 105 TRACY ROAD PEARCE, AZ 85625

PHONE: (520) 826-3645 FAX: (520) 826-3586

Fire Chief's Report for February 16, 2021

1. **EMS Calls=24**
 - A. In District Calls=14
 - B. Out of District Calls= 10
 - C. Number of Patients Transported= 16
 - D. Number of Patients Flown Out= 2
 - E. Number of Patient Refusals =6
 - F. Number of Mutual Aid Given Calls= 0
 - G. Number of Mutual Aid Received Calls= 1 (Elfrida for MVC)
 - H. Number of Deceased at scene Calls=4 (including two structure fire casualties)

2. **Fire, Service and Good intent Calls = 15**
 - A. In District Calls= 7
 - B. Out of District Call= 8
 - C. Wildland Fires = 1 (FA104)
 - D. Structure Fires=1
 - E. Car Fires= 0
 - F. Hazardous Materials= 2 (Chiricahua NM, gas-line break)
 - G. Good Intent= 4
 - H. Service Calls=7 (incl. paramedic assigned to FEMA for mass vaccination clinics, cave rescue response)
 - I. Mutual Aid Given Calls=0
 - J. Mutual Aid Received Calls= 1 (Willcox and Elfrida for structure fire)
 - K. Prescribed burns=0
 - L. Motor Vehicle Crashes= 1 (191)

Total Fire and EMS Calls 2021 year to date are 78. Total calls since January 19, 2021 are 39.

Training:

1. Fire training: On duty crews have been completing on shift training. These sessions included: service checks of apparatus and equipment, and physical fitness training. We held our second pack test assessment of the season with refresher training on January 23.
2. EMS training: On duty crews completed on shift training. These activities included: regular checks of ambulances, EMS supplies, equipment, and medications; continued independent completion of on-line modules. We held

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one group EMS session with our staff and outreach representatives from Air Evac, covering infectious disease, at-risk populations, and evidence-based guidelines and EMS research. In partnership with Arizona Ambulance, we hosted one Webex site for a four-day paramedic continuing education course. In partnership with Arizona Complete Health we held one post-critical incident trauma crisis session.

Wildland:

1. We have no engine resources currently assigned out of area. We have one paramedic assigned to FEMA for Covid-19 vaccination support. We have had one local wildland assignment since the last meeting.

We have a total of \$26,122.16 in open bills with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) submitted in December through February. We have received \$275,305.46 for bills submitted since July.

Out of District Services:

1. We currently have a balance of \$60,000.63 for the outstanding services that have been provided outside of the district boundaries since 2013. Of the out of district services provided, eight incidents, with a total of \$20,401.43 are in collections. Total unpaid balance that is not in collections is \$39,599.20.

Emergency Medical Services:

Total billings since July are \$263,686.88; total payments received are \$102,501.11. As of January 31, US Department of Treasury has re-directed \$61,488.55 of Medicare and VA payments towards our outstanding Noridian debt, as well as an additional \$15,700 from Customs and Border Protection.

Hazardous Materials:

1. We are continuing to participate in planning for county/ regional training, but due to pandemic precautions, group exercises are still limited. We responded to one emergency incident with chlorine gas in the Chiricahua National Monument and one natural gas pipeline break in Richland.

Maintenance

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1. M303: we replaced its glow plugs and related wiring. We are assessing rear suspension issues.
2. We are due annual pump tests, ladder tests, and SCBA air cascade maintenance this spring, tentatively scheduled for March.
3. M302 is out of service for rear suspension airbag failure. We are waiting on parts.

Communication:

1. Cochise County Health Department: Please visit the County website for Covid-19 updates (<https://covid-cochisehealth.hub.arcgis.com/>). Cochise County has had a decrease in positive Covid-19 tests, hospital admissions, ICU admissions, and deaths since January. It remains important for everyone to continue basic steps like mask wearing in public, avoiding large groups, maintaining social separation, frequent handwashing, and staying home when possible to slow down the continuing spread of this coronavirus and all its variants. Cochise County has opened vaccinations to prioritized Phase 1B individuals including those 65 and older. Please use the AZDHS vaccine finder page to make an appointment. Locally, in Willcox vaccines are being given by NCCH, Walker Family Medicine, Medicine Shoppe pharmacy, and Safeway pharmacy. Cochise County has vaccinated with at least one dose over 16,138 people, including 1,616 last Thursday alone.
2. Grants/ follow-up:
 - Gary Sinise Foundation: This grant proposal to add a customized UTV to our back-country/ wildland medical program was approved at the November meeting. It is still in staff development prior to final submission.
 - Legacy Foundation for Southern Arizona: we submitted a new request for turnout extractor and cleaning equipment for \$23,000 ; this grant was awarded and we are in the implementation stage.
 - VFA follow up: This 50/50 grant of funding support of \$3223.00 for wildland firefighter PPE was accepted last fiscal year. We have received the equipment ordered and paid the final invoice. We are not submitting a new proposal for this current cycle because of the 50% match requirement.
3. Local Emergency Planning Committee report: The next virtual meeting will be February 18.
4. Cochise County Fire Association/ Cochise EMS Association reports: A virtual meeting was held on January 27. The next virtual meeting will be February 24.

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5. Treasurer's Office: We are continuing to receive assistance from the Treasurer's office regarding our line-of-credit and income shortfall. We did not finish last year out of our line of credit by June 30, and converted \$144,790.86 to a registered warrant account with Cochise County. Looking ahead, our success in limiting growth in the registered warrant will depend on the nature of a possible resolution with CMS regarding Noridian and other Treasury payments, the availability of additional wildland extended assignments, and continued reductions in payroll and maintenance. As of February 12, the registered warrant was at \$35,079.42, an increase of \$19,627.20 since last meeting. We were briefly at "0" in November but have added to our deficit since then due to ongoing payroll and accounts payable costs.

6. Medicare- In January, our previous attorney, Mr. Whittington requested that the Board waive attorney-client privilege for Mr. Whittington's firm to discuss the case with our current attorney Mr. Matura and his firm. The Board did so at a special meeting on January 27. On January 29, Mr. Matura filed our brief for the Administrative Law Judge hearing regarding communications between the Fire District and Noridian/ CMS in 2017. We are waiting on a ruling from that hearing.

7. Surplus equipment follow-up:
No new changes since the list update at the January meeting.
Except, we did receive a donation of used extrication equipment from Three Points Fire District to be shared by Sunsites and Elfrida. We are assessing the donated items to see how well they work, and what repair/maintenance issues are present.

8. Staffing- We made no staffing changes this month, but we are still accepting and considering applications for part-time reserves.

9. Community support- I will be speaking briefly at the Sunsites Community Association annual meeting on February 25.

10. Policy review follow-up –Since the last meeting, I forwarded to the ad hoc committee the remainder of section 303, including job descriptions, and section 311.1 Out of District billing, and a new section 311.4 fee schedule for open burning assistance. The ad hoc committee has recommended that review on tonight's agenda. For next meeting, I will continue with section 308 Corrective Action/ Discipline and section 309 Complaint /Appeals Process.

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11. Introduce employees on shift.

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